



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
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17 August 2015

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 23 July 2015 requesting the following information:

"What does your organisation spend on legal fees e.g. external legal advice and what is the breakdown of fees and expenses (financial year 2013/14)."

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MoD), and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

We do not hold information in a form that would allow us to give you a fully comprehensive response. This is because legal costs are not accounted for discretely across all activities; they are, for example, not separately identified where they relate to our Service Concession Arrangements (formerly PFI/PPP). To establish such costs cannot therefore be done without a further substantial manual examination of detailed financial and contractual records held across the MoD, which would take us above the Section 12 limit.

In broad terms the MoD's legal costs for 2013-14 are as follows:

Expenditure Category	2013-14
Legal Fees	£20.9M
Legal Fees – Land Acquisition Disposal	£0
Legal Fees (Compensation Payments)	£2.3M
External Assistance: independent legal advice and guidance	£12.4M
Fees for Professional Services	£1.4M
TOTAL	£37M

These annual figures include expenditure with the Government Legal Department (formerly TSol), commercial legal work and other independent legal advice and guidance. The figures do not include external legal work commissioned by the single Service legal branches or by the Service

Prosecuting Authority, or miscellaneous expenditure such as the use of external patent attorneys or advice sought in foreign jurisdictions.

Additionally there was approximately £228K spent by MOD's Executive Agencies on legal work in the financial year 2013-14.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.